

## VIS

**VI'RU'LENT.** *adj.* [virulent, Fr. *virulentus*, Lat.]

1. Poisonous; venomous.
2. Poisoned in the mind; bitter; malignant.

**VI'RU'LENTLY.** *adv.* [from *virulent*.] Malignantly; with bitterness.

**VI'SAGE.** *n. f.* [*visage*, Fr. *visaggio*, Italian.] Face; countenance; look. It is now rarely used but with some ideas of dislike or horror.

Phoebe doth behold  
Her silver *visage* in the watry glafs,  
Decking with liquid pearl the bladed grafs. *Shakesp.*  
When she shall hear this of thee, with her nails  
She'll flea thy wolfish *visage*. *Shakesp. K. Lear.*

Whereto serves mercy,  
But to confront the *visage* of offence. *Shakesp. Hamlet.*  
With hostile frown,  
And *visage* all inflam'd, first thus began. *Milton.*

By the rout, that made the hideous roar,  
His goary *visage* down the stream was sent;  
Down the swift Hebrus to the Lesbian shore. *Milton.*

Love and beauty still that *visage* grace;  
Death cannot fright 'em from their wonted place. *Waller.*

To VI'SCERATE. *v. a.* [*viscera*, Latin.] To embowel; to ex-  
entrate.

**VI'SCID.** *adj.* [*viscidus*, Latin.] Glutinous; tenacious.

**VI'SCIDITY.** *n. f.* [from *viscid*.] Glutinousness; tenacity; ropiness.

1. This motion in some human creatures may be weak, in respect to the *viscid*ity of what is taken, so as not to be able to propel it. *Arbutnot.*
2. Glutinous concretion.

Catharticks of mercurials precipitate the *viscid*ities by their  
styplicity. *Floyer.*

**VI'SCOSITY.** *n. f.* [*viscosus*, Fr. from *viscosus*.]

1. Glutinousness; tenacity.
2. A glutinous substance.

A tenuous emanation, or continued effluvia, after some  
distance, retracteth unto itself, as is observable in drops of  
syrops, and seminal *viscosities*. *Brown's Vulg. Errors.*

**VI'SCOUNT.** *n. f.* [*vicecomes*, Lat.]

*Viscount* signifies as much as sheriff; between which two  
words there is no other difference, but that the one comes  
from our conquerors the Normans, and the other from our  
ancestors the Saxons. *Viscount* also signifies a degree of no-  
bility next to an earl, which is an old name of office, but a  
new one of dignity, never heard of amongst us, till Henry  
VI. his days. *Cowel.*

**VI'SCOUNTESS.** *n. f.* [from *viscount*.] *Viscount* and *viscountess*  
are pronounced *vicount* and *vicountess*.] The lady of a *vis-*  
count; a peeress of the fourth order.

**VI'SCOUS.** *adj.* [*visqueux*, Fr. *viscosus*, Lat.] Glutinous; sticky;  
tenacious.

The cause of the scouring virtue of nitre is, that it hath  
a subtle spirit, which severeth and divideth any thing that is  
foul and *viscous*. *Bacon.*

Holly is of so *viscous* a juice as they make bird-lime of  
the bark. *Bacon.*

**VI'SIBILITY.** *n. f.* [*visibilitas*, Fr. from *visibile*.]

1. The state or quality of being perceptible by the eye.
2. The colours of outward objects brought into a darkened  
room, do much depend for their *visibility*, upon the dimness  
of the light they are beheld by. *Boyle.*

State of being apparent, or openly discoverable; conspic-  
uousness.

They produced this as an instance against the perpetual  
*visibility* of the church, and he brings it to prove that it ceased  
to be a true church. *Stillingfleet.*

In these, the *visibility* and example of our virtues will  
chiefly consist. *Rogers's Sermons.*

**VI'SIBLE.** *n. f.* [*visibile*, Fr. *visibilis*, Lat.]

1. Perceptible by the eye.
2. *Visibles* work upon a looking-glass, which is like the pupil  
of the eye; and audibles upon the places of echo, which re-  
semble the cavern of the ear. *Bacon.*

On this mount he appeared; under this tree  
Stood *visible*;  
Here with him at this fountain talk'd. *Milton.*

Each thought was *visible*, that roll'd within,  
As through a crystal case the figur'd hours are seen. *Dryden.*

A long series of ancestors thews the native lustre with  
great advantage; but if he degenerate from his line, the least  
spot is *visible* on ermine. *Dryden.*

2. Discovered to the eye.

If that the heavens do not their *visible* spirits  
Send quickly down to tame the vile offences,  
Humanity must perforce prey on itself,  
Like monsters of the deep. *Shakesp. K. Lear.*

3. Apparent; open; conspicuous.

The factions at court were greater, or more *visible* than  
before. *Clarendon.*

## VIS

**VI'SIBLENESS.** *n. f.* [from *visibile*.] State or quality of being  
visible.

**VI'SIBLY.** *adv.* [from *visibile*.] In a manner perceptible by the  
eye.

The day being *visibly* governed by the sun, is a little  
longer than the revolution of the equator; so much as is  
occasioned by the advance of the sun in his annual contrary  
motion along the ecliptick. *Holder.*

By the head we make known more *visibly* our supplications,  
our threatnings; enough to see the face, and to understand  
the mind at half a word. *Dryden.*

**VI'SION.** *n. f.* [*visio*, Fr. *visio*, Latin.]

1. Sight; the faculty of seeing.
2. Anatomists, when they have taken off from the bottom of  
the eye that outward and most thick coat called the dura  
mater, can then see through the thinner coats, the pictures  
of objects lively painted thereon. And these pictures, propa-  
gated by motion along the fibres of the optic nerves into  
the brain, are the cause of *vision*. *Newton's Opticks.*

These theorems being admitted into optics, there would be  
scope enough of handling that science voluminously, after a  
new manner; not only by teaching those things which tend  
to the perfection of *vision*, but also by determining mathe-  
matically all kinds of phenomena of colours which could be  
produced by refractions. *Newton's Opticks.*

2. The act of seeing.

*Vision* in the next life is the perfecting of faith in this;  
or faith here is turned into *vision* there, as hope into en-  
joying. *Hammond's Pract. Catechism.*

3. A supernatural appearance; a spectre; a phantom.

The day seems long, but night is odious;  
No sleep, but dreams; no dreams, but *visions* strange. *Sidney.*  
Last night the very gods shew'd me a *vision*. *Shakesp.*  
God's mother deigned to appear to me;  
And, in a *vision*, full of majesty,  
Will'd me to leave my base vocation. *Shakesp. Hen. VI.*

To call by *vision*, from his father's house,  
Into a land which he will shew him. *Milton's Par. Lost.*

4. A dream; something shewn in a dream. A dream happens  
to a sleeping, a *vision* may happen to a waking man. A  
dream is supposed natural, a *vision* miraculous; but they are  
confounded.

His dream returns; his friend appears again;  
The murderers come; now help, or I am slain!  
'Twas but a *vision* still, and *visions* are but vain. *Dryden.*

The idea of any thing in our mind, no more proves the  
existence of that thing, than the *visions* of a dream make a  
true history. *Lect.*

**VI'SIONARY.** *adj.* [*visionnaire*, Fr. from *visio*.]

1. Affected by phantoms; disposed to receive impressions on  
the imagination.
2. No more these scenes my meditation aid,  
Or hush to rest the *visionary* maid. *Pope's Eloisa to Alford.*

2. Imaginary; not real; seen in a dream; perceived by the  
imagination only.

The hounds at nearer distance hoarsely bray'd;  
The hunter close pursu'd the *visionary* maid. *Dryden.*

If you have any skill in dreams, let me know whether I  
have the same place in the real heart, that I had in the *vi-*  
*sionary* one. *Addison.*

Our victories only led us to further *visionary* prospects;  
advantage was taken of the sanguine temper which success  
had wrought the nation up to. *Swift.*

**VI'SIONARY.** *n. f.* [*visionnaire*, Fr.] One whose imagination is  
disturbed.

The lovely *visionary* gave him perpetual uneasiness. *Fem. Quix.*

To VI'SIT. *v. a.* [*visiter*, Fr. *visite*, Lat.]

1. To go to see.
2. You must go *visit* the lady that lies in. — I *visit* her with  
my prayers; but I cannot go thither. *Shakesp. Coriolanus.*

Virgins *visited* by angel powers. *Pope.*

2. [In scriptural language.] To send good or evil judi-  
cially.

When God *visiteth*, what shall I answer him? *Job xxxi. 14.*  
Thou shalt be *visited* of the Lord with thunder. *Isa. xxix. 6.*  
When I *visit*, I will *visit* thee in sin upon thee. *Ex. xxxii. 34.*  
God *visit* thee in good things. *Judith xiii. 20.*

That venerable body is in little concern after what manner  
their mortal enemies intend to treat them, whenever God  
shall *visit* us with so fatal an event. *Swift.*

3. To salute with a present.

Samson *visited* his wife with a kid. *Judges xv. 1.*

4. To come to a survey, with judicial authority.

The bishop ought to *visit* his diocese every year in  
person.

To VI'SIT. *v. n.* To keep up the intercourse of ceremonial  
salutations at the houses of each other.

VI'SIT. *n. f.* [*visite*, Fr. from the verb.] The act of going to  
see another.

In a designed or accidental *visit*, let some one take a book,  
which may be agreeable, and read in it. *Watt.*

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which may be agreeable, and read in it. *Watt.*

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**VI'SITABLE.** *adj.* [from *visit*.] Liable to be visited.

All hospitals built since the reformation, are *visit*able by the  
king or lord chancellor. *Ayliffe's Paragon.*

**VI'SITANT.** *n. f.* [from *visit*.] One who goes to see another.

He alone  
To find where Adam shelter'd, took his way,  
Not unperceiv'd of Adam, who to Eve,  
While the great *visit*ant approach'd, thus spake. *Milton.*

One *visit* begins an acquaintance; and when the *visit*ant  
comes again, he is no more a stranger. *South.*

Edward the first, who had been a *visit*ant in Spain, upon  
action in the holy land, fixed both our pounds by the measures  
of the East. *Arbutnot on Coins.*

Griev'd that a *visit*ant so long shou'd wait  
Unmark'd, unhonour'd, at a monarch's gate,  
Instant he flew. *Pope's Odyssey. b. i. l. 160.*

**VI'SITATION.** *n. f.* [*visita*, Latin.]

1. The act of visiting.
2. He comes not  
Like to his father's greatness; his approach,  
So out of circumstance and sudden, tells us,  
'Tis not a *visitation* fram'd, but forc'd  
By need and accident. *Shakesp. Winter Tale.*

What would you with the princess? —  
— Nothing but peace and gentle *visitation*. *Shakespeare.*

2. Object of visits.

O slow'rs,  
My early *visitation*, and my last. *Milton's Par. Lost.*

3. [*Visitation*, Fr.] Judicial visit or perambulation.

The bishop ought to visit his diocese every year in person,  
unless he omits the same because he would not burthen his  
churches; and then ought to send his arch-deacon, which  
was the original of the arch-deacon's *visitation*. *Ayliffe.*

4. Judicial visit sent by God; state of suffering judicial evil.

That which thou dost not understand when thou readest,  
thou shalt understand in the day of thy *visitation*. For many  
secrets of religion are not perceived till they be felt, and are  
not felt but in the day of a great calamity. *Taylor.*

5. Communication of divine love.

The most comfortable *visitations* God hath sent men from  
above, have taken especially the times of prayer as their most  
natural opportunities. *Hooker.*

**VI'SITATORIAL.** *adj.* [from *visitor*.] Belonging to a judicial  
visitor.

Some will have it, that an archdeacon does of common  
right execute this *visitatorial* power in his archdeaconry; but  
others say that an archdeacon has a *visitatorial* power only of  
common right per medium *simplicis* *scrutini*, as being bishop's  
vicar. *Ayliffe's Paragon.*

**VI'SITER.** *n. f.* [from *visit*.]

1. One who comes to see another.
2. Here's ado to look up honestly and honour from the access  
of gentle *visitors*. *Shakespeare.*

You see this confluence, this great flood of *visitors*. *Shakesp.*

Consumptives of this degree entertain their *visitors* with  
strange rambling discourses of their intent of going here and  
there. *Harvey.*

I have a large house, yet I should hardly prevail to find one  
*visitor*, if I were not able to hire him with a bottle of  
wine. *Swift to Gay.*

2. [*Visiteur*, Fr.] An occasional judge; one who regulates  
the disorders of any society.

The *visitors* expell'd the orthodox; they, without scruple  
or shame, possess'd themselves of their colleges. *Walton.*

To him you must your sickly state refer;  
Your charter claims him as your *visitor*. *Garth.*

Whatever abuses have crept into the universities, might be  
reformed by strict injunctions to the *visitors* and heads of  
houses. *Swift's Project for the Advancement of Religion.*

**VI'SNOMY.** *n. f.* [corrupted from *physiognomy*.] Face; counte-  
nance. Not in use.

Twelve gods do sit around in royal state,  
And Jove in midst with awful majesty,  
To judge the strife between them thir'd late:  
Each of the gods by his like *visnomy*  
Eath to be known, but Jove above them all,  
By his great looks and pow'r imperial. *Spenser.*

**VI'SIVE.** *adj.* [*visivus*, Fr. *visus*, Lat.] Formed in the act of  
seeing.

This happens when the axis of the *visive* cones, diffused  
from the object, fall not upon the same plane; but that  
which is conveyed into one eye is more depressed or elevated  
than that which enters the other. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*

**VI'SOR.** *n. f.* [This word is variously written *visard*, *visar*,  
*visor*, *visard*, *visor*. I prefer *visor*, as nearest the Latin  
*visus*, and concurring with *visage*, a kindred word; *visere*,  
French.] A mask used to disguise and disguise.

I fear, indeed, the weakness of my government before,  
made you think such a mask would be grateful unto me;  
and my weaker government since, makes you pull off the  
*visor*. *Sidney.*

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